

THE EVERY-DAY GOWNS OF FIVE

WHOEVER it was who said, "Judge not a man by his coat," was wise in his generation when he preserved a discreet silence upon the subject of making women's clothes subservient to women. The modern proverb might truly read, "Good clothes cover a multitude of sins;" so much is forgiven and overlooked by the world if a woman only be well dressed. The ultra-smart set have grasped this idea thoroughly already, and dress with them comes next to their religion. I am not sure in many cases it does not come before! If you want to know what is actually the "latest shriek" in fashions, do not look in shop windows or trust blindly to the uncertain advice of interested modistes, but observe what prominent women in the gay world are wearing, and you will have an accurate guide to point out to you the right road to tread in the intricate maze of chiffons. The really well-dressed woman always pays the strictest and closest attention to her everyday gown.

It is the most important item in her wardrobe, and the most difficult.

It is destined to be worn always in the cold, cruel, uncompromising light of day, with none of the flattering accessories of pink shades and dainty backgrounds that negligees and evening toilets may depend upon to gloss over their possible defects. It has not even the advantage of the well-dressed woman herself coming to its rescue, with the extra supply of good looks, such as she has on the occasions when she is en grande toilette, and with which she may dazzle the beholder into temporary oblivion of what may be wanting in her habiliments. No, the garish light of day leaves the average woman little with which she may dazzle the eyes of even the most easily dazzled beholder.

And the everyday gown must stand or fall upon its own merits. At one time, not so long ago, strictly tailor-made gowns were supposed to have solved the difficulty of how to dress most attractively and practically for everyday functions, but this Spring plain tailor-made gowns are no longer the best style. The well-dressed woman has discovered that no man can hang a skirt successfully nor do justice to her figure; and she has also decided that the severe lines of tailor gowns are about the most trying thing she can affect. So now the well-dressed woman has turned her back upon the tailor, and insists that her skirts be hung and her bodices fitted by women, with the finishing and pressing only left for masculine hands.

The well-dressed woman is now having her "plain little gowns" elaborately braided, or covered with conventional designs of satin applied on cloth or canvas, or whatever material she most fancies. She has discarded, too, the linen collar, stock tie and plain shirt waist seen in every shop window, except, of course, when she goes in for biking or golfing, when they still remain indispensable. But under the swagger coat of the well-dressed woman is a blouse of satin covered with infinitesimal tucks, and finished at the throat with a dainty cravat of mousseline de sole adorned by tiny frills of thread lace; or else a huge bow of soft white or black tulle. These bows of tulle do much to soften the face, and are great beautifiers when the well-dressed woman is not



looking her best. It is by these clever little touches, and by an absence of a heterogeneous collection of colors, daubs of lace, flying ends of ribbons, and an utter lack of anything fussy or mussy, that you may know the well-dressed woman when you see her. And to be like, you, too, must acquire that art of elaborate simplicity that she understands so perfectly.

One of Mrs. Jack Astor's everyday gowns is of clear black and white check, medium in size.

The bodice is fashioned on the lines of a Russian blouse. A design in half-